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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 000715

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DEPT FOR OES/SAT, EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/30/2011

TAGS: [TSPA](#) [ETTC](#) [ETTC](#) [IT](#) [ITTSPA](#)

SUBJECT: GOI SLOWLY SHIFTING TO MILITARY ROLE FOR GALILEO

REF: 01 ROME 6243

CLASSIFIED BY: ESTCOUNS DAVID W. MULENEX FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

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1. (C) SUMMARY. DESPITE SETBACKS IN DECEMBER AT THE EU TRANSPORT COUNCIL AND THE EU SUMMIT, GOI RESOLVE TO PUSH FORWARD WITH THE GALILEO GLOBAL NAVIGATION SYSTEM APPEARS TO HAVE STRENGTHENED. THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ARE A NOW FREQUENTLY HEARD ADMISSION THAT GALILEO NEEDS TO BE VIEWED IN A DUAL-USE CONTEXT, I.E., AS A SYSTEM WITH MILITARY USES COMPLEMENTARY TO AND COORDINATED WITH THE U.S. GLOBAL POSITION SYSTEM (GPS). MFA, INDUSTRY, AND THE ITALIAN AEROSPACE AGENCY ARE LINING UP IN FAVOR OF THIS POSITION. ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ESA AND EC TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, CONFUSINGLY, SEEM TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS SHIFT IN GOI POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) AS REPORTED REFTEL, POST HEARD RAISED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EARLY DECEMBER AT MFA THE IDEA THAT ITALY MIGHT CONSIDER GALILEO AS A TOPIC FOR A MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSION. IN A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH THE MFA NATO OFFICE A WEEK LATER, WE HEARD THE SAME MESSAGE -- WHY NOT CONSIDER GALILEO-GPS INTEROPERABILITY A PROJECT DEMONSTRATING EU-US SOLIDARITY IN ANTI-TERROR COOPERATION, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF GALILEO'S POTENTIAL IN THE MILITARY SPHERE AS WELL? THE QUESTION SEEMED RHETORICAL AT THE TIME, SINCE MFA SAID IT HAD NO PLAN TO SUGGEST TO MOD A MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSION ON GALILEO.

3. (C) ITALIAN INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY ALENIA SPAZIO, HAS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ADVOCATED GALILEO AS A EUROPEAN SYSTEM NECESSARY TO OFFSET THE POSSIBLE DEGRADATION OR SHUTDOWN OF U.S. GPS SIGNAL. ALENIA SPAZIO PRESIDENT ZAPPA TOLD ESTCOUNS IN EARLY JANUARY THAT EUROPE WOULD GO AHEAD WITH GALILEO, THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD INCLUDE MILITARY USES, AND THAT

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INTEROPERABILITY WITH GPS WOULD INCLUDE BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN APPLICATIONS. ALENIA CONTINUES IN ITS LONG-STANDING ATTEMPT TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE WITH BOEING, AND AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF THE POSSIBLE AGREEMENT IS COOPERATION ON GPS-GALILEO INTEROPERABILITY. ZAPPA ALSO TOLD ESTCOUNS THAT THE GERMANS WERE NOW ONBOARD AND PREPARED TO SUPPORT GALILEO.

4. (C) LAST, IN A JANUARY COURTESY CALL ON SERGIO VETRELLA, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE JUST RENAMED ITALIAN AEROSPACE AGENCY (FORMERLY ITALIAN SPACE AGENCY), ESTCOUNS WAS TOLD THAT WHILE THE AGENCY WANTED A "CONNECTION" WITH NASA THAT WENT BEYOND COOPERATION, THE SPACE AGENCY ALSO HAD RESPONSIBILITIES TO ESA. VETRELLA, LIKE ZAPPA AND MFA COLLEAGUES, ASKED ALOUD WHY THE COSTS OF GALILEO SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED AGAINST ALL THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING INTEROPERABILITY WITH GPS IN MILITARY APPLICATIONS.

5. (SBU) ON 16 JANUARY 2002, ESTOFF MARTINI MET WITH ASI NAVIGATION AND SPACE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS FRANCO MARCONICCHIO (PROTECT) AND FRANCO MARUCCI (PROTECT), WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ESA AND EC GALILEO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES. MARCONICCHIO AND MARUCCI SEEMED TO BE COMPLETELY UNCONCERNED BY THE DECEMBER FAILURE OF THE EU TRANSPORT COUNCIL TO REACH CONSENSUS ON APPROVAL OF THE GALILEO PROGRAM. THEY PROFESSED ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE THAT GALILEO WOULD EVENTUALLY RECEIVE ALL NECESSARY EU APPROVALS. MARCONICCHIO INTERPRETED RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE EU HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AS A CONFIRMATION OF A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GALILEO. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS COMMITMENT WOULD BUOY GALILEO ALONG UNTIL A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED. IN ADDITION, MARCONICCHIO AND

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MARUCCI NOTED THAT THE EU HAD APPROVED SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE CURRENT DEFINITION PHASE OF THE PROGRAM, WHICH COULD CONTINUE ON FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

6. (SBU) MARCONICCHIO AND MARUCCI SHARED THE OPINION THAT THE USG WAS OPPOSED TO AN INDEPENDENT GNSS SYSTEM BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN PUBLIC SAFETY OR NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS. FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, THE USG IS NERVOUS ABOUT THE LOSS OF POWER AND PRESTIGE THAT

WOULD RESULT FROM AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN COUNTERPART TO GPS.
THEY DISMISSED CONCERNS EXPRESSED RECENTLY BY THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REGARDING THE PROPOSED OVERLAY OF THE

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GALILEO SIGNAL IN BANDWIDTH USED BY THE U.S. MILITARY. THEY
COUNTERED THAT SUCH CONCERNS COULD EASILY BE ALLAYED BY A
"REAL" COMMITMENT BY THE US TO COOPERATE WITH THE US ON
INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN GPS AND GALILEO. THEY REPEATED
COMMENTS BY OTHER ITALIAN OFFICIALS THAT INTEROPERABILITY IS
VIEWED IN ITALY AS A TECHNICAL NECESSITY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE
GLOBAL COVERAGE.

17. (SBU) WHEN ESTOFF ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE MILITARY USE OF
GALILEO, BOTH ASI OFFICIALS INSISTED THAT GALILEO WOULD BE
FOR CIVILIAN-USE ONLY. MARUCCI ARGUED THAT IN ORDER FOR
GALILEO TO TAKE ON A MILITARY ROLE, IT WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE

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ACTION OES-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | NP-00 | AID-00 | AMAD-00 | CIAE-00 | CIP-00 | COME-00 |
| | CTME-00 | DOEE-00 | DOTE-00 | SRPP-00 | EB-00 | EUR-00 | FAAE-00 |
| | VC-00 | H-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | L-00 | NASA-01 | AC-01 |
| | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OMB-01 | PM-00 | ACE-00 | IRM-00 | SS-00 |
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
USEU BRUSSELS 2546
USMISSION USNATO

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APPROVAL FROM NATO, SINCE SUCH A MOVE WOULD AFFECT THE
COLLECTIVE NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENSE STRUCTURE. HE THOUGHT IT
HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ITALY, OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE
CONSORTIUM SUCH AS SPAIN OR FRANCE, WOULD PRESENT A FORMAL
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PROPOSAL TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) FOR GALILEO'S
MILITARY USE. WHEN ESTOFF NOTED THAT SEVERAL ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS HAD MADE STATEMENTS TO THE
EMBASSY SUGGESTING A MILITARY ROLE FOR GALILEO, IT DID NOT
SEEM TO REGISTER WITH EITHER MARUCCI OR MARCONICCHIO.

18. (SBU) MARUCCI AND MARCONICCHIO SUGGESTED THAT A WAY
THROUGH THE CURRENT US-EU IMPASSE OVER GALILEO WOULD BE TO
ESTABLISH A BILATERAL ITALO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON THE
TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF GNSS. THEY SUGGESTED
THAT A BILATERAL DIALOGUE WOULD PROVIDE A MORE STREAMLINED
AND EFFICIENT PATH TO ACHIEVE A TRANSATLANTIC CONSENSUS ON
INTEROPERABILITY. AS A RATIONALE FOR THIS CONCEPT, MARUCCI
ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS NO EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON THE
TECHNICAL PARAMETERS REQUIRED FOR GALILEO AND THAT THE US WAS
DEALING WITH A COLLECTION OF POLICIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER
STATES. MARUCCI AND MARCONICCHIO SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY THAT
TRILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG THE UNITED STATES, EU AND RUSSIA
TO ADDRESS THE DATA RELAY OF NAVIGATIONAL SIGNALS OVER THE
ARCTIC CIRCLE COULD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR A TECHNICAL,
NON-CONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSION ON INTEROPERABILITY.

19. (C) EMBASSY COMMENT. HAVING NOW HEARD THE SAME ESSENTIAL
MESSAGE FROM GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND THE AEROSPACE AGENCY,
WE CONCLUDE THAT THE GOI POLICY ON STRICTLY CIVILIAN
APPLICATIONS FOR GALILEO HAS SHIFTED. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT YET
KNOW THE PARTICULAR FORM THIS SHIFT MAY TAKE. OUR SOURCES
CONTINUE TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM FRENCH VIEWS THAT THEY
CHARACTERIZE AS UNHELPFUL TO US-EU SOLIDARITY. IT IS NOT YET
CLEAR WHETHER WE SHOULD EXPECT AN OVERTURE FOR DIRECT
MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS, WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE
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COMPETENCE OF THE EC TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. ON
GALILEO. THE ITALIAN AEROSPACE AGENCY TECHNOCRATS CONTINUE
TO LOBBY FOR A BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF INTEROPERABILITY, BUT
WE NOW JUDGE THEIR INITIATIVE TO BE BEHIND THE POWER AND
POLICY CURVES. IT DOES SEEM THAT THE SEARCH IS ON FOR

ALTERNATE FINANCING OF THE PROJECT, AND THAT MODS MAY BE
AMONG THE FIRST TARGETS OF THE GALILEO SUPPORTERS. END
COMMENT.
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